## S.A. Moffett, and Early Days at Kyung Sin School

My father, Dr. Semuel A. Moffett, is best remenbered as the pioneer Protestant missionary in North Korea, and it is of ten forgotten that his first three years in Korea, from 1890 to 1893 were spent mostly in Seoul. It $t x$ was in this period that he became the second principal of what is now Kyung Sin High School.

Dr. Moffett landed in Chemulpo (Inchon) on his 26th birthday, January 25, 1890, and made his way by sedan chair and pony up to seoul. He was dismayed to find that the gates to the city were already closed, for it was dusk. Fortunately, Dr. John Heron, a fellow missionary, had met h1m, and Dr. Heron was physician to the King. Dr. Heron's soldier-guard, appointed by the King, managed to persuade the Keeper of the West Cate to hold the gate open just enough for the two $\mathbb{C}$ issionaries and their friends to squeeze through.

Seoul was then only an over-grown village of 30,000 one-story houses, and only three wide streets. There were ticers and leopards in the mountains, sometimes even inside the city wall on the north side of town. The entire population numbered only about 150,000 people. What a contrast with modern Seoul, the world's fifth largest city, and its population of six million.

On his second Sunday in Seoul, Dr. Moffett was asked to lead the Sunday School at a little school that Dr. Underwood had started three and a half years earlier. If Seoul itself, the school deseatertye too, then, was not much to look at: a little handful of boys, mostly without fathers or mothers, meeting in a little house on the mission compound in Chung Dong, behind the DukSoo Palace.
"There must be no hyma singingat the school," Dr. Moffett was warned. The American Minister (Ambassador) had asked the missionaries to keep their Christian services very quiet so as not to arouse Government suspicions about their work. There was no religious freedom in Korea in those early days, and it was still technically illegal to carry on foreign religious work.

That first Sunday father learned more from the boys, I dare say, than they from him. Theowergout 20 in- the He decided it was a good time for him to begin learning the Korean language. So he posted up a large picture scroll, and pointing to this and that in the picture, would ask, "ol 가ㅅㅜㅜ인요". The 20 or so students in the school would laugh and shout out the answers, and this is the way he learned Korean in the days before English-Korean dictionaries and grammars were written. "A pood teacher," he used to say, "must always be willing to learn from his students".

Before he had been in Seoul many months, Dr. Underwood asked my father to take charge of the school. I have a faded yellow sheet of paper in my possession, with his hand-written report for the jear Jan. 1, 1890 to 1891. In Dr. Underwood's absence, Mr. Davies, Dr. Heron, Mr. Gifford and Mr. Moffett had all taken turns superintending the school. The year started with 29 pupils, who were being taught Chinese, Korean phonetic (Eunmun or Hankul), and English. But in September Moffett and Gifford completely reorganized the institution, recommending thet what had been little more than an orphanage be converted into a regular school, emphasizing Korean studies rather than English, and that the students be required to pay part of their own support. Korean History was to be added to the curriculum, and music, and even Korean archery.

Students rose at 5 a.m., and had an hour and a half of classwork from 6 to 7:30 a.m. before breakfast at 7:30. From 8 to $9 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. they attended chapel services. The second class sessions was from $9 \mathrm{~A} . \mathrm{m}$. to $1 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. , followed by dinner from 1 to $2 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. One hour of Blble teaching followed, until 3 p.w. when the boys were dismissed for two hours of recreation and work. Then they reassembled at $5 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. for another hour of study before supper at $6 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. "The teachers," my father wrote, "are to receive the same food as the boys. Anything extra they must provide therselves". It was an early lesson in democracy.

He was to be at Kyung Sin school for only a few short years, but they were important years, and the lessons he learned from his experiences there he remembered all the rest of his forty-six years in Korea.
-- Samuel Hugh Moffett
Seoul, Korea
December 1972
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## 大同江가서 拏習班 조직하고 성경 가르쳐…두아들 韓國에 남아 数授•警師로 활약



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## 국판 특수 모조지 원색화보 아트

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# Three Generations in the Ministry <br> Preaching Is a Moffett Tradition 

By BARKER HOWLAND
The old adage＂like father， like son＂applies to the Rev． R．Blair Moffett，pastor of historic Silver Spring Presby－ terian Church，a third gener－ ation ordained Presbyterian minister．
In fact，the Moffett family has played a prominent role in the history of the United Prestyterian Church for the last three generations．
The Silver Spring pastor＇s grandfather，the Rev．Dr． Samuel A．Moffett，was a missionary to Korea and es－ tablished much of the Presby－ lerian activity that is still being carried on．Four of the sons of the Rev．Samuel A． were ordained to the min－ istry，and the fifth，Dr．How－ ard Moffett，is a medical mis－ sionary in Taegu，Korea．
The Rev．Blair Moffett＇s fa－ ther，the Rev．James Moffett， is pastor of the North Shore Presbyterian Church，Long Island．One uncle，the Rev． Samuel，is a well－known mis－ sionary in Korea，carrying on in the steps of his illustrious father．Another uncle，the Rev．Charles，is a pastor in Indiana．A third uncle，the Rev．Thomas，although or－ dained，is not connected with church work at the present time．
The third generation Mof－ lett has cousins who are min－ isters and his oldest sister is married to a pastor．His only brother is an electronics engi－ neer and his other sister has just graduated from college．
＂There were other Moffetts in the ministry，＂said the lo－ cal pastor，＂but my knowl－ edge of them is hazy for I know little of the family his－ tory before my grandfather．＂
In his latter years in high school，the Rev．Blair Moffett got the urge to become a min－ ister．But he denies any pres－ sure was placed upon him to continue in the family tradi－ tion
＂Historically speaking，a


Surveying the Past of Historic Church
The Rev．R．Blair Moffett，pastor of the church，looks at the sanctuary of Silver Spring Presbyterian Church，which was built in 1783.
son followed in his father＇s Theological Seminary in 1966. footsteps，＂he told The Patri－ ot．＂But in my family there was never any pressure put upon me to study for the min－ istry．
＂Of course I had a positive image of clergymen because of my associations with them，＂he added．＂My family was very happy when I chose the ministry for a lifetime work but was equally happy when my brother elected to become an electronics engi－ neer．＂
The Rev．Mr．Moffett got his Bachelor of Arts degree from Marysville College，a United Presbyterian affil－ iated college，in 1962，and re－ ceived his Bachelor of Divin－ ity degree from Princeton

True to the Moffett tradi－ tion he spent a year in Korea observing the work of the missionaries but he early de－ cided that the pastorate was his field．
While attending Princeton he worked in two churches， Bryn Mawr Presbyterian and Layayette Avenue Presby－ terian，Brooklyn，N．Y．Upon graduation he was called to the Wellsboro Presbyterian Church，which he served until iast year when he was called to the 239 －year－old Silver Spring church as successor to the Rev．Tolbert D．Hewlett， who retired．
Looking at the challenge of the ministry today，the Rev． Mr．Moffett observed that the

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church can＇t do much better than do what the New Testa－ ment prescribes．
＂Christ gave His followers specific commands，to preach a n d to heal，＂he said． ＂Though the situation has changed that is still the kind of two－pronged mission for the church today－get the Word out and use its energies to bind up the wounds of indi－ viduals，groups，nations．
＂After all the hullabaloo over the various parts of mis－ sion，the essence has not changed in the last 2,000 years，＂he said．＂The church gets a lot of flack for lagging behind but it＇s true that people who have the courage to open up controversial is－ sues and to undertake un－ popular types of service have very often been people of the church．＂

The young pastor is enthu－ siastic aboui the service a historic church like Silver Spring can render to the com－ munity．
＂We are in the midst of a growing suburban area，＂he said．＂In such an area the schools and churches are usu－ ally rootless and history－less．
＂I feel the Silver Spring
church was something unique to offer to suburbanites－a sense of history，a sense of being rootec．When people come to worship in our church，they have a palpable sense of worshipping where their forefathers worshipped． ＇The communion of saints＇be－ comes something real．
＂This church is proud of its past，builds on its past but is not buried by its past．
＂For a long time now the old residents of the area and the newcomers have got along beautifully within this church．In most churches where these two groups pre－ vail there is friction，but at this church there is none of that friction．＂
The Silver Spring congrega－ tion dates back to 1734，the same year as ths First Pres－ byterian Church of Carlisle． In that year the Rev．Alexan－ der Craighead was commis－ sioned by the Donegal Pres－ bytery to＂preach to the people over the Susque－ hanna．＂

The present sanctuary of the church was built in 1783 and has been remodeled sev－ eral times．In 1929 it was re－ stored to its original form as a result of gifts from Vance and Henry b．McCormick，as well as Miss Anne McCormick．
The church building was originally called the Silver Spring Meeting House and got its name from the spring that belonged to a James Silver． The spring after all these years still runs clear．Al－ though the wood in the interi－ or is not the original，the style is authentic and the exterior stone is the original．
McCormick Memorial Hall was built in 1948 and the new－ est of the church buildings， the Christian Education wing， was constructed in 1960.


Korea Times Photo
An old national flag returned after 55 years excited people to shout hurrah for Korea. They are, from left, President Emeritus Woo Ho-ik of Sungjon University, student representative Kim Yong-hun, and James Moffet, son of the late Samuel Moffet who founded Sungshil School in Pyongyang, predecessor of Sungjon University, and protected the flag from Japanese colonialists.

## U.S. Missionary Moffet's Son Returns Taeguk Flag of 1919

A national flag of Korea, which used to be hoisted as a symbol of patriotism at a school in Pyongyang during the independence movement in 1919 was returned to Korea by an American who has been keeping it for 55 years.

James Moffet, son of Samuel Moffet, an early American Christian missionary in Korea, delivered the national flag yesterday to Sungjon

University which succeeded Sungsil School of Pyongyang.

Samuel Moffet used to fly the flag at the school despite the rigid regulation of the Japanese colonialists, the visiting son of the late missionary explained.

He returned the flag measured 180 by 120 centimeters in a flag-raising ceremony held yesterday at the university campus.
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## FURTHER REPORT ON "TREASURED FLAG RETURNED"

In answer to questions generated by the article in the June Pulse, which told of James M. Moffett returning a historic flag to Seoul, Korea, here is additional information:

After news of the historic flag was reported in all the Seoul newspapers and TV and radio news programs, Professor Kuhn Kim of Kunguk University came forward to let SJU (Soong Jun University) know that he was one of the five who made the flag.

He told how he designed it from memories of seeing a flag when he was eleven years old. Because of imperfect memory, the flag is not exactly like the national flag seen today. And because of lack of materials, the center, which is normally blue and red, is black and red. The flag is now in the University's Museum, with other memorabilia of the Independence Movement.

Of the other four flag-makers, two have died, one-Wonchan No -is in the States, and other - Pyong-gon Pak - lives in Seoul.

We can be justly proud of the part the Moffett Family has played and is playing in the life of the Christian Church in Korea. Remember our own Dr. Sam Moffett and his wife in your prayers.

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